

March 2, 2006

Tom Shepherd, Executive Officer
Department of Administrative Services
Information Technology Enterprise

Tom:

You will find attached an application for grant funding through the IOWAccess program.

It is my understanding that this application will be presented for discussion at the Wednesday, March 8, 2006 meeting of the IOWAccess Advisory Council. It is also my understanding that it is appropriate for me to appear at that meeting on behalf of the County Real Estate Electronic Government Advisory Committee to speak briefly and or to answer questions.

As you consider what resources may be available through IOWAccess in support of the Iowa Real Estate Online project, please be aware that Iowa Interactive, Inc. is a principal service provider to the Iowa State County Treasurers Association. Also, the Iowa State Association of County Auditors is currently negotiating a service provider contract with Iowa Interactive, Inc.

While we understand that Iowa Interactive, Inc. provides valuable services in support of many IOWAccess projects, our committee believes it would be desirable to have Iowa Interactive continue in their primary role as a service provider to the Treasurers and Auditors and as a direct participant in the project. Iowa Interactive would be placed in a difficult position if they were asked to serve in a dual capacity. Therefore, we ask that you allocate other resources should you choose to support this application."

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Kline, Chair
County Real Estate Electronic Government Advisory Committee

Date: March 2, 2006

Project Name: Iowa Real Estate On Line

Requesting Governmental Entity:

County Real Estate Electronic Government Advisory Committee created pursuant to House File 882, 2005 Iowa Acts.

Project Point(s) of Contact:

Ken Kline, Chair
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Mason City IA 50401
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Project Sponsors:

County Real Estate Electronic Government Advisory Committee created pursuant to House File 882, 2005 Iowa Acts.
Iowa State Association of Counties

Goal:

The goal of the project is to develop an Internet web portal linking the websites/web portals that house county real estate data so the public would be able to access Iowa real estate information from any web-accessible location and move seamlessly and transparently between different data sources without reentering parcel information and without knowing the data had been accessed from different sources.

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to implement the goal of House File 882, 2005 Iowa Acts, to integrate the websites/web portals used by the four offices in each county that house real estate data and thereby increase public access to county real estate information.

Background:

The County Treasurers' website for real estate data is operational for all ninety-nine counties. Document imaging through the County Recorders' website is operational for ninety-seven counties, and the County Recorders are working toward full implementation of their project. The County and City Assessors' current web portal is linked to sixty-plus Assessors' websites across the state, and the Assessors' affiliate has recently discussed plans to work toward statewide participation by all County and City Assessors. The County Auditors are currently negotiating a contract with Iowa Interactive, Inc. to develop a website for County Auditor held real estate data. Because each of these websites/web portals will exist independently, a user would need to access each one separately and perform duplicate searches to access information on a particular real estate parcel.

Expected Results in this Project:

The vision of the project is to have a web portal that itself houses no county real estate data, but which serves as a one-stop access point to find real estate information. The joint web portal would link to the four affiliate websites/web portals and to individual county websites by the use of multiple unique identifiers, such as the county permanent parcel identification number. The user would be unaware the search engines and data actually exist on the affiliate and independent county websites/web portals. The user would be able to access current ownership information, assessed values, images of recorded real estate documents and pay taxes, all without knowing the joint web portal accessed multiple data sources in a manner that was transparent and seamless to the user.

Request:

The dollar amount of the request is unknown at this time and would be determined during the analysis phase of the project.

Interested Parties:

Iowa County Recorders Association
Iowa State Association of Assessors
Iowa State County Treasurers Association
Iowa State Association of County Auditors
Iowa Counties Information Technology
Iowa State Association of Counties
Iowa Bankers Association
Iowa Association of Realtors
Iowa State Bar Association
Iowa Land Title Association
Iowa Credit Union League

Recipients of this Service:

Expected users of the project include any member of the public, including Iowa citizens, taxpayers, and voters. High volume users would include real estate attorneys, real estate loan officers from banks and credit unions, real estate brokers, and abstractors.